

Release of Information P57

Project I.D. No 184

NAME: Yoshihashi, Setsu DATE OF BIRTH: 1895 PLACE OF BIRTH: Akita
Age: 82 Sex: F Marital Status: W Education: High School

PRE-WAR:

Date of arrival in U.S.: 5/1915 Age: 20 M.S. Port of entry: San Fran.
Occupation/s: 1. Laundry Worker 2. Housewife 3. Grocer 4. Maid
Place of residence: 1. Hollywood, Calif. 2. Pasadena, Ca. 3.
Religious affiliation:
Community organizations/activities:

EVACUATION:

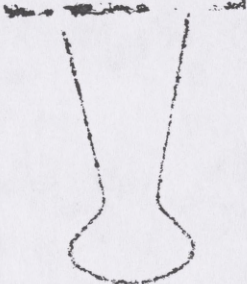
Name of assembly center: Tsurabe
Name of relocation center: Gila River Camp, Arizona
Dispensation of property: Landlord's home Names of bank/s:
Jobs held in camp: 1. 2.
Jobs held outside of camp:
Left camp to go to: Ohio (In 1945)

POST-WAR:

Date returned to West Coast: March 1951
Address/es: 1. Ohio (6yrs) 2. Loomis, California, 8 mos.
3. San Gabriel, California
Religious affiliation: Christian Church
Activities: 1. 2. 3.
If deceased, date, place and age at time of death:

Name of interviewer: Heihachiro Takarabe Date: 2/9/78 Place: San Gabriel, Ca.

Translator: Sakako Yoshida



NAME: Mrs. Setsu Yoshihashi

BIRTH PLACE: Akita prefecture

BIRTH DATE: 1895

OCCUPATION: Housewife, Laundry worker

DATE OF IMMIGRATION: 1915

LOCATION OF CAMP: Hila River Camp

Interview Date: February 9, 1978

Interview Location: San Gabarial, California

Interviewer: Heihachiro Takarabe

Translator: Takako M. Yoshida

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A: We'll be asking you some questions about your past, so please answer them the best to your recollection.

Please state your name.

A: My name is Setsu Yoshihashi.

Q: Where were you born?

A: I was born in Akita prefecture. I went to Tokyo when I was 13 years old.

Q: When were you born?

A: In the 28th year of Meiji, 1895. I am 82 years old.

Q: What was your father like?

A: My father loved his liquor. He loved to drink. But, as I look back, I believe he was a very clever man. He was the only child of an aristocratic family and was very spoiled. He was in district office doing all sorts of things.

Q: What was his work?

A: He worked in the district government office quite a bit. The local government office - in the Akita local government.

Q: He wasn't a farmer then?

A: No, he was a government employee.

Q: Was your father a strict disciplinarian?

A: I was only with my parents for 3 years after I was born so I don't know too much about parental love. It was my fate in this lifetime. I left my parent's home town when I was 5 years old and when I was about 6 years old, I became seriously ill for a year. I then went to live with my mother's aunt when I was 8 years old for 3 years. I went to Tokyo when I was 13 years old. I was only with my parents for 2 or 3 years after my birth. So, I really do not know anything about my parent's love for me.

Q: Why was your life like this? What were the circumstances that led you to this?

A: Well, it's even strange to me. I was the only child to have this happen to me. It's a strange fate, indeed. I left my native home when I was 5 years old so I never ^(SIO) saw my brothers and sisters often. I always wanted to return to my home town. It is a tradition in Akita to just keep the eldest son and one daughter at home and to raise them lovingly and the rest of the children are taken away from home. This is an old Akita custom. So it was not just my family who did this - it's a tradition in Akita. All our neighbors did this. The wealthier families would keep their oldest son and the cutest daughter and the rest of the children had to leave the family home. Some families had 10 to 14 children. Akita is a place like that.

Q: So you left your home when you were 5 years old. . .

A: No, at one years old. A child had to leave home some time between the ages of one and 5 years old.

Q: You must not remember your parents too well, then.

A: No, I don't. I don't long for them, either because I really never experienced my parents' love for me. I really don't know what its like to be loved by my own parents, but I know God loves me. I cry whenever I think of God's love for me. Of the five children in my family, I am the only one to have gone through this strange fate.

Q: Were you, then, the only child to be taken away from your family?

A: No, both my younger and elder sisters were, too. Only Setsuko's mother was raised by my parents with much love and also, of course, eldest brother was too. Only those two were raised so lovingly and

warmly by my parents. The rest of us children were sent away.
This is the custom of my home town.

Q: Do you remember about the place you went when you left your home?

A: Oh, yes. I remember it frighteningly well. I miss them so much that I even dream about the place.

Q: Did you go to a good home?

A: Well, it wasn't a good home, you know, it was a farm family. But, I loved them the most of all the people I have known in my life.

Q: Did you call them father and mother?

A: I called the head of the house, Aba. Do you know that when I started reading the Bible that God was referred to as Aba in Romans 8? I was shocked when I read this. I went to a white neighbor of mine who was a Sunday school teacher and asked her, "is it true that God is also called Aba?" And she said, "yes, that's true." But before me, I've been calling the most beloved person in my life Aba. And to think that I found the same name in reference to Father. Oh, I was so shocked by the Bible. It was such a strange coincidence.

Q: So that woman raised you from birth, providing you with milk and such until you were five years old?

A: Yes, that's right, until I was five years old.

Q: What do you remember about Aba?

A: She used to carry me on her back and take me to my real family in town. We lived in the village and she had to go into town in the snow, mind you. I still remember those trips - the scenery and all, the snow. She was so kind to me.

Q: What else do you remember about Aba?

A: Well, we used to have a statue of the Goddess of Mercy (Kannon) and

the the Goddess was very helpful and kind to us. When I fell seriously ill, so serious that no one knew if I would live or die. My natal mother vowed to this Goddess that if I was allowed to live she would give up chicken and eggs. This is the only thing I remember about my mother's love. I don't remember her love or even if she ever loving towards me.

Q: Did Aba have any children of her own?

A: Yes, she had 3 children of her own. One was a year younger than I.

Q: Did you play with them often?

A: Oh, yes, all the time.

Q: Were they like your real brothers and sisters?

A: Yes, of course. They were my brothers and sisters, really. I enjoyed my stay with them so much. I always wanted to stay with them. My elder sister was brought up by them for two years. This was before I went to live with them. Since both my sister and I were raised by them, we just couldn't wait until Saturdays when we were allowed to visit them.

Q: You were ill when you were 5 years old?

A: No, after I was 5 years old, on my 6th year for one year. I wasn't able to stand up. I stayed in bed for almost a year. This was the time my mother showed any love for me. She worried about me and made a vow to the Goddess of Mercy. She prayed to her for my recovery and donated (_____). My mother walked at night to pray to her. This is the one thing I'm very grateful for to my mother.

Q: After your mother made the vow to the Goddess of Mercy, did you get well?

A: Yes, I did.

Q: Then what happened?

A: When I was about 8 years old, I went to live with my mother's 80 years old aunt. She didn't have any children and she took a liking to me and asked my parent to let her have me. So, I was taken in by my grand aunt. I stayed for 3 years with her. None of the other children ever listened to her at all, but I never complained or talked back. If she said to wear this or that, I'd wear it even if it was all worn out. She said I was so obedient that she kept me for 3 years. My aunt and uncle in Tokyo who were also childless wanted someone to live with them. They heard how I never complained and was so very obedient so they sent for me when I was 13 years old. My uncle was a military man.

Q: The second place you went to was to your aunt's home?

A: No, my mother's aunt's home.

Q: Did she have any children?

A: No, she didn't. There was another elderly person living there and they were very lonely, so they wanted me to live with them. My aunt in Tokyo didn't have any children either, but she was a hysterical woman and very stubborn. She was such a talkative, nagging woman. People just weren't able to work for her. But, since I had patience and tolerance, they thought I would be able to work there. I worked there for 7 years looking after them. Oh, she was such a talkative, nagging, hard-to-get-along woman. And I had to stay in that home for 7 tiring years. I went to girl's school from there. For seven years! She was famous for her personality. She never had any experience raising children and she was short-tempered. I guess a lot had to do with my aunt's complicated background. She was such a loveless, cold person. Her

father was an Army surgeon inspector - a daughter of a vaery well respected upper class family. But she was such a cold, cold woman. I worked there taking care of her and her husband for 7 years. Then I came to America and oh, I had a hard life with my husband. He was so stubborn. My marriage to him was very difficult.

Q: Going back a bit, but how many siblings did you have?

A: Five brothers and siters.

Q: Is this including you?

A: Yes, including me. An older brother, an older sister, me, Setsuko's mother and then another guounger sister. I was the middle child.

Q: Did you go to school?

A: Yes, I did.

Q: Did you like school?

A: I didn't particularly like it or dislike it. I went to school in Akabane from Akita. I had a Tohoku dialect, what people call a "zu-zu" dialect and the children just used to laugh at me something terrible. I was scared and embarrassed to go to school. betto's wife had to take me to school every day. It took so long and so much effort to correct my Tohoku dialect into standard Japanese. My aunt would not allow me to go home to Akita prefecture because she said she didn't want me to revert back to my Tohoku dialect. I didn't go home once in 7 years.

Q: You wanted to go home I'm sure.

A: Of course, I wanted to go home. My aunt told me I would lose my proper speech and etiquette if I went back to Akita, so she wouldn't allow me to visit my family. Not even once in 7 years.

Q: Did you complete girl's high school?

A: Yes, I did. I went to Ushigome High school in Tokyo. It's still in existance. It's called Seijo Kōto Jogakkō.

Q: What is the name of the school now?

A: Seijo Koto. It's in Ushigome.

Q: Did you get used to the city school after a while?

A: Yes, I did. It was fun going to school in Tokyo.

Q: What do you remember about school?

A: All the fun I had in the girl's school.

Q: Did you participate in sports or anything.

A: Oh, no. We weren't allowed to play any sports in those days.

Q: What do you remember about your school days? What did you do for fun?

A: We didn't do anything special for fun. We used to (unclear) and I'd go home like that. My uncle would get so angry at me.

Q: What did you do that he got angry at you?

A: Because I would come home (unclear). My military uncle was very strict man. He wouldn't let me go to the theater or the movies. He was a vaery strict man. One time I wanted to go to the movies and since my uncle had a meeting that night and would be gone for the evening, my aunt let me go to the movies with the betto's wife. When I returned from the movies, muy uncle had returned form his meeting early and was waiting for us. I got called into the room and he was aboslutely furious at me. I still remember that incident. He was such a strict man.

Q: Did you have to work after you came home from school?

A: No, we had two maids who took care of the household chores. I didn't do any specific work around the house, but they never had children . . . my uncle's military friends would come over and drink and drink and drink. The maids had to get up early in the morning so they couldn't be kept up at all hours in the night, so my aunt

and I had to keep the sake warm and serve them. So whenever he called, we had to serve them. Even though I completed high school I don't have any real abilities mainly because I never had the time to study while in school. The maids would start fixing the master's dinner at 3 o'clock in the afternoon. His dinner took two hours because he drank as he ate his dinner. He would go for a walk after dinner, have a beer, and then his friends would start coming because they knew if they went to the master's home they could always get Japanese sake, beer or wine. They used to come every single night. They drank so much. When I look back I think of the waste of money and time. Really very wasteful. But, I believe my uncle was quite honorable and intelligent in those days. Really. The Matsui had nothing left at the end, though. All they have left was a cemetery. The Matsui family line collapsed. I believe this was God's plan - to end the Matsui family line. They sold their ancestral tomb and used the money to buy a 500 tsubo mansion in Tokyo. The mansion was an extravagant place. But, the War demolished their possessions. They weren't able to hold on to it and another family took it over. I returned to Japan in 1961 and I cried when I saw what had happened. As I look back, I see that a Christian life is austere, but very worthwhile.

(ANOTHER VOICE: people don't know this . . . but (_____) is Matsui's grandmother).

She was a cultured woman. This person's father was a military inspector general and is a relative of Mr. Ichigodo.

Q: Did you ever ask your aunt if you could return home?

A: No, I never asked her that. To be able to go to a girl's high

school in those days . . . my, that was very extraordinary in those days. No one from Akita had ever left for Tokyo to go to a girl's high school. The most a girl could do was to attend a prefectural high school. That was in itself a great feat. I was the envy of so many people because I was taken in by my uncle and sent to a high school Tokyo. Remember the times.

Q: How many years of grammar school did you go? 6 years?

A: Yes, I also went to junior high school in Akabane.

Q: How many years of grammar school did you go?

A: I don't remember. How many years did I go anyway? When I came to Tokyo I was a 3rd year in Girl's high school I was a transfer student. Girl's high school was 5 years so I went there for 2 years all together.

Q: What else do you remember about your life with the Matsui family?

A: I had a very hard life with them. My aunt was neurotic so when she didn't want to talk, she wouldn't talk for a whole week. She was that kind of woman. My elder brother was living there also, going to Seicho junior high school. When I returned to Japan in 1961, my younger sister said, "whenever Big Brother gets drunk, he always talks about you with tears in his eyes". My brother went through hard times with me in that house. He saw my hard life, too. When I came to America, I had even a harder time. My brother knew that too and so my sister told me, "yes, he always cried about you whenever he got drunk."

Q: How old were you when you lived with you aunt Matsui?

A: From the time I was 13 years old for 7 years. Until I was 20 years old.

Q: For that long? You had much endurance and patience.

A: Yes, I'm surprised about that myself. I'm also very happy that

I didn't end up with a chip on my shoulders or a callous view of the world. I'm very grateful to God for taking care of me. I survived living with such a difficult lady without a harsh view of life. My aunt's mother was so very kind to me. She would rub my shoulders at the end of a hard day and tell me to be patient and take life in stride and that some day good things will happen to me. She would tell me, "I know life is very hard for you. But, just have patience and endure this for now." Imagine my aunt's mother would try to console me. You can imagine how difficult it was to live with my aunt.

Q: In what specific ways were your aunt mean to you?

A: It isn't that she was particularly mean, but that when she was in a bad mood, she would ^{not} speak to anyone for a week. When she was in one of her moods and I'd come home from school, she wouldn't even give me any snacks or anything. When she's in one of her moods, she's very difficult to live with. I would say, "good morning, aunt" and she wouldn't say a word. It wasn't pleasant at all.

Whenever my aunt bought me anything she would always remind me she bought them for me. I really hated that. I remember that to this day. When the present Emperor was the Crown Prince, he went to his newly built palace in Akasaka. Those who had a rank of Kosankyū, no, the leaders and the families of Akabane were invited to view the palace. My aunt and the rest of the ladies wore a black kimono with a white emblem. But, young children had to wear a long sleeved kimono or they wouldn't be allowed into the Akasaka palace. My aunt ordered a long sleeved kimono from Kyoto saying that she wanted me to go. I refused to go with her.

I knew she would constantly tell me she bought a long-sleeved kimono especially for me, so I refused to go to the ceremony. I refused to go and at the end I did not go. I'm still surprised that I had such courage in those days. I'm still shocked that I had such unusual characteristics. I didn't want to get dressed in that kind of kimono and what good would it have done me if I went to view the opening ceremony of a palace, anyway? Nothing. I told her I wasn't going and just refused to go. I still remember that incident.

Whenever a Japanese do something for someone, they forcefully remind you that they were kind to you. I think that's a bad habit. I do not like it at all. If you are kind to someone, that's it. You don't have to keep repeating so you'll be grateful to them. She was indeed a difficult lady to live. She didn't keep her employees for very long. She was always like that to me. She was like that when I came to America as a bride. My husband's brother was fervently looking for a Japanese wife for his brother in America lest he marry a White woman. His brother was already 31 years old. His brother didn't want a farm girl for a bride. There were many eligible girls, but he didn't want to marry just anyone. He wanted a girl from a good household. He had asked some good families for brides but they all refused and said, "no we don't want our daughter going to such a far country as America. We will marry her off to a good family in Japan". So at the end, my aunt decided to give me away as a bride.

Q: What is the blood relationship between you and your husband?

A: My husband's elder brother's wife was my mother's younger sister. So, my husband's brother was my uncle by marriage. His wife was

my blood related aunt. They were not on the Matsue side, but were the Yoshihashi's. The elder brother was conscripted into the Army and died in the War. He was my husband's brother. He and his wife was so kind to me and took such good care of me. They adopted me into their family and gave me to his younger brother as a wife.

Q: You stayed with the Matsui's until you were 20 years old?

A: No, I wasn't quite 20 years old. I became a Yoshihashi before I graduated from high school because I went part of my school year from the Yoshihasi home. So, I was with the Matsui until I was 18 years old.

Q: You lived with the Matsui's for 7 years?

A: Yes, I didn. Then I became a Yoshihashi and went to school from their home. I went to America when I was 19 years and 18 months old.

Q: Who decided that you would marry?

A: My husband's elder brother. They decided. The couple was so kind to me and liked me very much.

Q: Did you decide that you would marry your future husband while you were still living with the Matsuis?

A: Yes, that's right. The Matsuis did not want to give me up. But, my relatives believed that life in America was fantastic and pressured the Matsuis and they really couldn't refuse. The proposal was by an in-law of the Matsui's but the Yoshihashis were my direct relatives, she was my aunt. The Matsuis did not want me to go, but couldn't refuse to give me up. My uncle told me that if I didn't want to go to America that I wouldn't have to go. He told me, "think very carefully before you make your decision." But, I didn't give any such thoughts. I was a Japanese child and if my aunt wanted me to do something, I obeyed. I never had to do any

deep or serious thinking in my life before this so I was unable to make such a big decision on my own. I didn't have the mind to think so deeply. As I look back I guess my uncle really didn't want me to go. He said, "if you don't want to go, just say the word. You don't have to go. If you don't want to go, don't go. Think about it carefully." He said that to a person like me who never had to do any serious thinking. But, you know, I now believe that a person's path is set by God's will. God's will led me to America and I'm very grateful to Him.

Q: So, you came to this country after you registered into the Yoshihashi family line.

A: Yes, that's right.

Q: How was the life with the Yoshihashi?

A: Oh, just marvelous. They were the best. He was a military man, too, but he didn't drink. He was a marvelous soldier. I'm very proud to belong to such a honest, upright family like them. I'm very proud to be a Yoshihashi. My husband was a very strict man and life with him was very hard, but the Yoshihashi bloodline never drank alcohol - for 13 generations. In Japan this is very rare. My children don't even drink beer to this day. Yoshihashi family line is a serious, honest family. I'm very grateful to have been taken in by the Hoshihashi family.

Q: You became a Yoshihashi when you were 18, but your husband was still in America, right?

A: Yes, that's right.

Q: When did he come for you?

A: We had told my husband that if he did not come for me in person that I would not marry him. He replied that he owned a laundry

business in Hollywood and that he could not leave his business at all. My family replied that if he sent a 1st class ticket, then I would be allowed to go to America. So, I went to America on a 1st class ticket on the Nihon Maru. I came to America in class.

Q: What did your parents say when you became a Yoshihashi?

A: I was in the complete care of the Matsuis so my parents didn't say anything. They didn't approve or disapprove.

Q: Did you have a wedding in Japan?

A: Oh, no, I didn't. We were married in San Francisco by a Christian minister. What was his name? This minister worked with the Immigration office. We were married in a Christian style.

Q: What kind of preparation did you make to come to America? Did you come to America about a year and a half after you became a Yoshihashi?

A: Yes, I guess so.

Q: How many years did you stay with you Aunt Yoshihashi?

A: A year and a half. Both my aunt and uncle were so kind to me.

Q: Were you happy that you were going to get marry?

A: Happy? Well I just never concerned myself with such serious problems. I felt basically that whatever my aunt and uncle decided was fine with me. I wasn't particularly happy nor did I worry about my future life in America. There was 15 years differences between my husband and I.

Q: Did you make any specific preparation to come to America?

A: Oh, yes. I had to go to Yokohama several times for my physical exam. The head of our district was very strict about the regulations. I had to go to Yokohama so many times. Also, an official from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs came to inspect us. The inspector asked my uncle many questions. I remember that very well.

Q: Did you bring kimonos and things like that with you?

A: Yes. I told them I didn't need any kimonos in America, but my Matsui aunt insisted that I take at least one kimono saying, " I can't send you off naked when you are about to marry." So, she gave me a set of beautiful kimono. I donated all those things to the Ladies Association in Hollywood when I was living in Los Angeles.

Q: Did you have ny preconceived ideas aobut America?

A: No, I really never gave any thoughts to what I was doing. I remember it was just abou the time of the World's Fair. Oh, yes, I was sent to English lessons before I left. I started when I was a 3rd year high school student and since I didn't have a firm foundaton I didn't do well. One must have a good foundation. I went to English lessons for some time.

Q: Were the lessons helpful?

A: No, not at all.

Q: Some Japanese ladies studied flower arrangment or tea ceremony before they came to America. Did you do the same?

A: No, I didn't. I studied a little flower arrangment. The Matsui house was so large . . . there were two maids.

Q: Did someone see you off at the port when you were about to part?

A: Oh, yes many people I wish we had taken paicture then. My cousin, an officer, oh, just so many people came to send me off. Next time, I will show you the Yoshihashi family reunion picture.

Q: Did you travel alone?

A: Yes, I did. But, a friend of my Uncle Matsui who was in the military service was on the ship with me. He was going to England via America to serve in the Japanese legation in England. He was from Akita,too. So, My uncle Matsui asked him to look after me. My

uncle put me in the care of the Japanese legation. We traveled 1st class so we were treated very well. We sat with the captain at each meal. There were about 7 1st class passengers - a head librarian from Yamaguchi prefecture, members of the Japanese legation and people like that. I have never been treated so royally. The life on the ship was so extravegant! I had the best time of my life on the ship. WE landed in Hawaii for a day and ate at a beaugiful restaurant by the shore. Oh, what a life. WE traveled in such luxury. I was shocked.

Q: What do you remember about your life on the ship?

A: There was another woman in 1st Class who shared a cabin with me. Her name was Yoneko Ono, an Eurasian woman who attended a Woman's English College. She was a Christian and sand the hymn, " " every single day. She sang it every day that I memorized the song. I wasn't a Christian then, but I memorized the very by heart. She was going to attend Columbia University and we parted company in San Francisco. When I landed in America and went to live in Hollywood, that was the beginning of a living Hell. I had forgotten bout the hymn during that period of my life. In 1935, I went to a White Christian church in Ohio and when I was about to be baptized, I heard the same hymn being played. I was shocked. It was the same hymn that I had memorized on the ship on the way to America. I had totally forgotten about the hymn all these years and suddenly I heard it on the day I was to be baptized. When I heard the hymn 35 years after I came to this country, I cried in front of everyone. There were 500 or 600 whites in the church, there were no other Japanese there, but that moment was a very unique moment for me. I forgot that there was any one in the church, and I just cried. That was indeed a very strange experience.

Q: Did you talk to this woman quite often?

A: Yes, we did. We were the only two females on board.

Q: How old was she?

A: She was quite old. Close to 30 years old, I would say. She was going to study at Columbia University.

Q: Did you ever see her again?

A: No, I never did.

Q: Did you remember anything else about your trip on the ship?

A: All we saw was the ocean day in and day out. But, my life on the ship was so much fun. We had ice cream for dessert every day. We got so sick and tired of ice cream. All in all, I really enjoyed my trip.

Q: Did you make any other friends?

A: I made friends with the rest of the 7 or 9 passengers in 1st Class.

Q: Did you have any contacts with the 2nd and 3rd class passengers?

A: No, not at all. I wore my kimono for dinner and I sat next to the captain and Ms. Ono sat on the other side of the captain - he had to have a lady at each side. The other passengers sat around the remaining seats. We sat like this at each meal. I really saw how luxurious the 1st class passengers are treated.

Q: Were you uncomfortable any any point in your voyage?

A: No, not at all. I was very comfortable.

Q: I guess you were used cramped areas.

A: Yes, that's true (laugh).

Q: You landed in Hawaii?

A: Yes, we enjoyed ourselves during the one-day stay there.

Q: Did you get sea sick?

A: No, not too much.

Q: Was the Captain Japanese?

A: Yes, he was. We were on the Nihom Maru, a Japanese ship. There were the tenyo, shiyo, and the shuyo in those days and I was on the Oriental fleet, the Nihon Maru.

Q: What year did you board the ship?

A: In 1915. I came to this country in May, 1915.

Q: Where did the ship land?

A: San Francisco.

Q: What were your feelings when you saw America for the first time?

A: I was totally enthralled. I was sent to an immigration island - Angle Island. We were released that evening. The procedure was not complicated. A woman, a Japanese wife of a minister who worked at the immigration office, told us about sanitation and other necessary things we had to know about the life in America. We left that evening.

Q: Where did you meet your husband?

A: We stayed at the Kumamoto Inn.

Q: Where did you meet your husband for the first time? On the ship?

A: Yes, he met me on the ship. When the man, Sho-san who was entrusted to take care of me during the voyage, met my husband, he looked so sad for me. I still remember that look on his face. My husband is not a handsome man; he has short legs and he had a stocking hat on his head. When Sho-san saw him, he felt so sorry for me. I still remember that look on his face. He must have felt so sorry for me.

Q: So you were introduced to your husband on the ship?

A: Yes.

Q: How did you feel when you saw your husband for the first time?

A: Well, you know the Matsui side of my family is a very distinguishing-

looking family and all the Japanese were suprised to such a family, but the Yoshihashi family is not physically attractive people. They have such short legs. I couldn't walk next to my husband. I was so embarrassed. I was very vain and had high expectations so I just couldn't stand walking alond side him. I never could fall in love with him. But, he was so strong-willed. I could not win over his strength and I did give in at the end.

Q: When you saw your husband for the fist time, what did you think about?

A: I don't know. Everything was in such a frenzy. He had shoes on and they were so dirty. We went to the World's Fair, but I didn't understand what was going on. They had a lot of mechanical exhibitions, but I didn't understand what was going on, I didn't know anything about machines. Everything was in a frenzy. One thing I really enjoyed in San Francisco, though, was the carps. I had just arrived in America and I just didn't understand anything about the World's Fair or anything. I was in a daze.

Q: Whad did you say to him when you met him for the first time?

A: I don't remember.

Q: Did you say, "good afternoon"?

A: That's probably all I did say. There was 15 years difference between us. I knew nothing of life and he had gone through all the hardships of life. He probably thought I was just a child. He was shocked to see me and probably thought, "oh, my God, what have I gotten myself into". (laugh)

Q: Did he say anything to you? Didn't you greet each other?

A: I'm sure we greeted each other, but I don't remember, I had come to a foreign land and I was in a daze. I was now in the hands of a stranger and I was in a daze. My daughter who had passed away

used to say, "Mother, how could you possibly marry a man you never met and come to a foreign country? I just don't understand, Mother." (laugh) She always used to say, "I don't understand, Mama". (laugh) But, you know, women in those days were not allowed to live on her own wits and strengths. WE could only do what someone told us to do. All we could do was to say, "Yes" and be obedient. It was so different in those days. Modern women now can do what she wants to do and say no if she doesn't like something. Modern women now have the right to think over her who they want to marry as mates, but not in my days. We could only obey our parents or relatives. If they said do this, we had to do it. We were brought up and trained that way since we were little. It's difficult to understand if you think in terms of the modern thinking. I was brought up in the olden times.

Q: Where did you go after you were released from Angle Island? ^(S)

A: We stayed at the Kumamoto Inn and went to the World's Fair every day. After that was when the hardships started.

Q: How many days did you stay at the Kumamoto Inn?

A: Yes, that's right. We went to the World's Fair every day. My husband wouldn't take me to his house for a long time. He was afraid I'd be shocked at his house. He wouldn't take me home. We stayed in a hotel in Los Angeles for some time. He took me to his house quite some time later.

Q: Did you go to Los Angeles by train?

A: No, we went by boat from San Francisco. My husband had a laundry shop in Hollywood employing about 20 people. People told me that Yoshihashi was a successful man, considering the standards in those days. It was difficult in those days to send a 1st Class ticket from Japan to ~~merica~~ America. People used to tell me that Yoshihashi

was a successful businessman, being able to send me a 1st Class ticket, owned his own business and had 20 employees under him. My husband had high ideals - he hated to work for anyone. He would go through any kind of hardships so long as he was his own man and didn't have to work for another man. He said, "there is no way I would ever work for the Whites." Because he was this way he never made any money. My daughter used to say to him, "Papa why did you ever come to America with that kind of thinking?"

Q: After you stayed in the hotel in Los Angeles for a while, you went to your husband home, right?

A: Yes, oh, he lived in a horrid place.

Q: What were your thoughts when you saw his place for the first time?

A: I was shocked at his place. Because he was so finicky, his room was spotless. His room was absolutely clean and spotless. He was a picky, neat man. Here I was a married woman in America who didn't even know how to cook. My Aunt Yoshihashi started to teach me to cook before I left since I was to be married soon and needed to know how to cook. I cooked rice one day, and it came out raw. She said, "Setsu, How can you possibly go to America when you can't even cook?" They gave up in a way and just wanted me to go out and play. My aunt just wondered what would become of me at the end. I got yelled at, you know. But, I stayed with the Matsui household for several years and worked hard. I wasn't all that bad.

Q: What kind of hardships did you begin to encounter in America?

A: My husband took me to the laundry shop shortly thereafter. My husband's elder brother who was in the military passed away. He committed suicide over the calvary issue. His brother was a senior member of the Keijei and he committed suicide over the calvary

issue which was to establish a constitution of some kind. He committed suicide in the traditional samurai code by disemboweling himself. This even was even covered by the American newspapers. He was an Army inspector general. When my husband heard this news, he suddenly fell ill. When he heard that his brother whom he respected and was dependent on had died so suddenly, my husband became physically ill. He said that continuing the laundry business wouldn't give him the needed rest so he said we had to move to a rural farm area. He took me to live on a farm owned by Mr Nappa in Anaheim. We went by wagon. When we arrived there, we stopped under a chestnut tree and he put a tent up underneath the tree. He told me that this was our home now. I felt like we were tramps. Real tramps. Other Japanese put tents up nearby, too. There were some Japanese from Hiroshima who worked on the farm. My husband told these men that they wouldn't be able to get along well and raise a family in America without knowing the English language so he told these people that he was going to teach them English. He taught English every night in our tent. He was really a strange man. I cried every night in front of our make-shift home and between the sobs I was also teaching the ABC's to the Japanese. I really felt like a beggar. When it rained the water would seep into the tent between the corners. I caught a cold and couldn't get up. I really became quite ill. A friend named, Mrs. Kagawa took care of me and nursed me. She told my husband, "Really, Mr. Yoshihashi, I don't know about your circumstances, but must you live like this? It's your fault that your wife is ill."

Q: What happened to the laundry shop?

A: A man was looking after the shop for my husband and he insisted we return as soon as possible. So, we returned. I worked at the

laundry shop for 7 years. I left my children at the babysitter's and I ironed and cooked for 20 people. I worked until midnight every day for 7 years. Life was very hard.

Q: What time did you get up?

A: I got up early. I had to feed everyone. I had to cook for 20 people and oh, what a chore to cook for that many people. I took the children to the babysitters in the afternoon and I worked until midnight ironing the clothes. I told my husband he was a cruel man. "You have me work like a man, get me pregnant and won't give me any spending money", I told him. I thought he was such a horrid, cruel man. Then his partner told him that even though I was just a family member, at least he could give me some spending money. And so my husband gave me \$40 and I went to Hollywood right away and bought some clothes for my children. I worked in the laundry shop for 7 years.

Q: How many children did you have at the shop?

A: I had 5 children and 3 were born at the laundry shop. When our eldest son was 6 months old, we moved to Pasadena. We sold the laundry shop because we weren't making much money. We then went into the insurance business.

Q: How long did you live in the tent?

A: Oh, it wasn't very long. Over 2 or 3 months, though. I became ill and wasn't able to move around so we moved back.

Q: Will you explain the incident surrounding the suicide of your husband's elder brother?

A: His brother was a top official in the Kihei (calvary). Another officer who was about my his age had gone to France during the First World War. He said that from his experience the calvary would not be useful to Japan because the next war would be a war

in the air - a war using planes. He had gone to France as a government military envoy and he said that all future wars would use airplanes to fight. He said the period in which calvarymen marched to Manchuria was over. There was a fierce discussion between our brother and this officer. One argued for the glory of the calvary and the other on the side of the airplanes. The discussion became a bitter and struggles ensued. Our brother had never been in France and all he cared about was his calvary. He had many followers, but at the end this officer was correct in his prediction. So, it was because of this bitter controversy that my husband's brother committed suicide. He was a very dedicated officer, a one tracked minded man. There is a statue in his honor in Toyohashi. Even to this day, the young officers still pay homage to the place where he committed suicide saying that his military honors and tears are buried there. He was a famous calvary officer. His son became a general later.

Q: Your husband must have been in great shock and disappointment.

A: Yes, very disappointed. He became very weak physically from this point on. His long (_____).

Q: What were some of your other hardships in the laundry business?

A: He had many employees and I had to take care of the children. I worked from morning to night. My life was hell in those days, but it is because of the hellis 7 years working in the laundry shop that I was able to survive my life in America. The hardships I went through later paled in comparison to my life in the laundry shop. Because of my experiences there that I was able to support my family of 7 even when my husband became ill and couldn't work. I believe this was all God's providence, that he allowed me to

experience my life in the laundry shop. If I didn't have that experience I would not have been able to even feed my 5 children and a sick husband. During the time my husband was ill, I worked at the front desk and put up advertisements in front of the store offering the customers 10% discounts. We had a lot of customers as a result. I had to work until 4:00 am to get the work done, washing and ironing the clothes. And because of what I did the 7 of us were all able to eat and survive.

Q: Why did you quit the laundry business?

A: My husband was too weak physically so we sold our business and started an insurance business. We were able to start the insurance business because we had the money from selling the laundry shop and the insurance business was extremely good in the beginning. We had some money saved up so we used it to lend it to those who didn't have the money to insure themselves. We were also able to save money and lend them money as well. Then, the Depression hit and we were caught right in it. We weren't able to get back the money we had lent. We were hit hard and landed on the bottom again. My husband became even more ill (with asthma) and he wasn't able to do anything.

Q: Was this around 1930 and '31?

A: Yes, just at that time. I had children from the ages of 12 years on down and the doctor had to come and give my husband 3 shots a day to relieve him. I didn't know what to do. All my children were too young. I just didn't know what to do. I worked at a friend's home, a White family's home for half a day. I would then do the laundry for the customers after I got home from work. This is how our family of 7 was able to survive.

Q: What did you do with the 50¢?

A: Mujun. I was very lucky that my husband's employees showed me how to do the laundry. If I didn't have that skill, we would all have been in deep trouble.

Q: Did you work half a day in the morning?

A: Yes, I worked half a day in the White family's home. I took my children with me to work. After I got home, I did the laundry for the customers. We were able to survive on this.

Q: Did you use your own machine to wash the clothes?

A: Yes, that's right. I then ironed the clothes, fold them and have them ready by Saturday for the customers.

Q: Until what time did you do the laundry?

A: Sometimes I had to wrk until 4:00am or the laundry wouldn't be ready in time. The customers came to pick the clothes up on Saturdays. We were able to eat on what I made. My husband didn't do a thing after that. Not one bit of good. He never got well. He had asthma in the Spring and Fall and so I realized I couldn't depend on him for a steady job. I then realized that he couldn't even support himself and that I just could not rely on him. He could not carry the responsibility of his own family and knew I could not depend on him. I made up my mind that I had to work as though he was dead. So, that's what I did.

Q: How many years did you do housework and laundry together?

A: I did that for some time. How many yeas . . . I don't remember. Pasadena passed a law prohibiting doing commerical laundry at home. They passed that law just about the time my life got a little better - I was well enough off that I didn't have to do the laundry work at home when the law was passed. I then worked for a green grocer for a long time. I worked in the Farmer's Market in Pasedena and I worked there until I had to go to camp.

Q: What do you remember of the times when you were doing the laundry at your home?

A: Some strange things happened - God was watchning our for me. The only job I could do at home so I could look after my chidlren was laundry for profit. I wrote out an advertisement and put it on the front of the house. People began to come and brought there laundry. I didn't have a washing machine and I just couldn't do all of the clothes by hand with so many customers. What hap-pened then was strange. I picked up the telephone book and leafed through the washing machnie advertisements and I called one of the places listed there. I told them I wanted to buy a washing machine and asked them if I could try one of the machines for a couple of weeks. I asked them in my broken English and he said fine and frought one to my house. I was able to do the laundry with this machine and in fact, this machine became too small for all the business I was doing. I had to call the same place back and told him I wanted to buy a bigger machine. I asked him the price and he said \$200 and he told me the down payment and monthly charges. I was able to pay the down payment from the money I made from using the smaller machine and I bought the \$200 machine. I'm still sthocked at my courage I had then. God really looks after his children. It wasn't me doing that. I don't have that kind of courage. Imagine, I looked up a machine dealer and asked for a deal over the phone in my broken English. I am proud of myself. I was able to pay for the machine completely and fed all the members of my family. And now, my eldest son takes good care of me. He says to me, "you have really worked hard in your life." He does everything for me.

Q: Did you do t he home-laundry for about 5 years?

- A: No, for 7 years.
- Q: How many years did you do the laundry at home in Pasedena?
- A: Let's see. I probably worked at least for 2 or 3 years. I quit that work and started to work for a large vegetable market, the Farmer's market. I worked there for a long time.
- Q: You must have been quite anxious when your husband became ill with asthma and couldn't work.
- A: Anxious is the word for it. I just had to literally work as though he wasn't alive. I just accepted that he wasn't alive so I wasn't too sad or kanashii. I didn't mind working to my bones or go to the depth of the ocean if it was all for my children. I felt like I had a load of stones on my back. I learned that people do not go crazy easily. I was able to go through these hardships because I had children and that I loved them so. My will to survive was solely for them. I never knew my parents' love for me and it was painful for me, but I was determined never to be separated from my own children so I was able to go through any kind of hardships. I just felt like I was dead, going on pure nerves. That's all. I had no time to think about my condition. I just had to survive - and I did it all through my sheer nerves. I am rewarded now - my eldest son takes such good care of me.
- Q: Going back a bit, but did you have to feed the 20 employees when you lived in Hollywood?
- A: Yes, that's right. I cooked breakfast and lunch, twice a day for them. Our store was in a large house. It's been torn down since then. We had many single employees so I had to feed them.
- Q: You said there were many single men. Did many of them gamble since they didn't have alternative entertainment?
- A: Well, they all went out to have fun on Sundays and didn't return

until Monday. Oh, we had so many problems. It wasn't an easy business. I have had many different experiences.

Q: How many years had your husband been in America before you came?

A: He came in the 38th year of Meiji - during the time of the Russo-Japanese War. My husband had come out to Tokyo to study to become a military officer. But, his legs were too short so he couldn't become a soldier. So, he was a stubborn unrealized soldier who hated to lower his head to anyone. On the other hand, he was such a serious and hard working man who hated to do anything crooked. Even though we were going through such hard times, I couldn't reproach him. He had asthma and he was in no condition to be criticized. I just worked and dried. When I started to work in the grocery store, I worked from 6 in the morning and on Saturdays until 11pm. I would be exhausted on Sundays and couldn't even lift a foot. I tried to sleep in on Sundays, but my husband would tell me, "Mama, what are you doing sleeping so late. You are a bad example for the children." Then my elder daughter Fumiko would say, "Papa, please", and she would try to calm him. He was that kind of man. I have never met such a strong-willed man like him. He never drank or gambled so I just couldn't reproach him for his behavior.

Q: What do you remember about working in Farmer's market?

A: I sold vegetables and I had 3 different bosses during my stay. I sold the vegetables in my broken English, but my customers all liked me. They all asked for the "Oriental" and all wanted me to serve them. My boss couldn't let me go or his business would have declined sharply. I went through 3 different owners. I did my sales in my broken English.

Q: Was this an ordinary market?

A: No, it was a green frocery. We only sold vegetables. Farmer's Market was very popular at one time in Pasedena. The market stretched out for 4 or 5 blocks. Competition was very stiff.

Q: Do you remember anything else?

A: There was one very sad even. A policeman came to where I was working and arrested me. He told me I couldn't touch the celery or lettuce or anything. He dragged me to the station. I had no idea why he was arresting me. I called my daughter and she came. The policeman told me that I had not paid my sales tax. He was referring to the time before I started to work at Farmer's Market and after I had quit the laundry business. A friend came to me with a proposition. She said that she and her husband wanted to start a grocery shop. My husband didn't work and he hadn't done anything for 9 months. I had some money in my children's savings and I withdrew the money. With this money, my friend and I went into business and bought a truck. We started a grocery store on Green Street. By law, we were suppose to charge sales tax, but my partners never charged sales tax. Come to find out, they had bought the store in my name because Nakashima, the partner and my husband had debts so they couldn't start a business in their names. They used my name to buy the store. Well, the police came to arrest me because the store was in my name and we hadn't paid any sales tax. The officer said, "I don't know anything about your circumstances, but the store is in your name. We must, threfore, ask you for the government's share of the taxes. You must pay the government. However, I see that you can't pay your taxes so pay the government monthly installments. \$3.00 or even \$5.00 is better than nothing. Pay the bare minimum, but you must pay. So

long as the debt is in your name, I can't release you of your obligation." What he said was true. Because the sales taxes hadn't been paid for so long, the interest was very high. My daughter was working in the Department of Education then and I was working at the grocery store. Both of us paid \$3.00 or \$5.00 a week on what we owed. We paid most of it. When the War started, we went to the revenue office and we found that we still had \$130 left on our debt. I wanted to pay them off completely because I know the interest would just grow on the debt. My daughter and I paid them off completely before we entered the camp. I still have the receipt. I was so angry then. I withdrew my children's savings to start the store and I ended up paying the taxes because they put the store in my name.

Q: What happened to the store?

A: We had to quit because we weren't making any profits. We kept going bankrupt so we closed up the store in one day. I started to work at the Farmer's Market the following week.

Q: Did you get any money back from the store?

A: No, not at all. I withdrew all my children's savings since my husband didn't have a job and I felt he needed to work since he wasn't doing anything every day. Life was very hard. I ended up apying for the store's debt because it was in my name. I paid until I had to go into camp, but the government's was very understanding. They only asked for money that I would be able to pay. I worked hard to pay them. I still have that receipt. When I think of all the things that's happened to me, I'm surprised I still kept livivg.

My husband got ill when the War started and when we had to go to

camp, he was bedridden so he couldn't help us take care of our belongings or ehlp us move. My son who was still very young helped me move. My husband passed away as soon as we entered the camp. I was very grateful he died in camp. Had he died on the outside, we would have had funeral expenses, but the camp authorities took care of the funeral and the burial. I was very grateful. I know God is always looking after me.

Q: Did life get easier when you started to work at Farmer's market?

A: Yes, that's right, it did. I even went to work for a white family.

Q: Do you feel you made a mistake by going to work for a White family?

A: Oh, no. The family was very nice to me. Dr. Cramer, a millionaire and the head of the house trusted me completely and treated me very kindly. Even if I wasn't doing anything, he would send me upstairs to do the work up there. H was a very wealthy man so when you go upstairs you would see diamonds all over the place. The family never allowed other maids to work upstairs, but I would be sent upstairs to work. Theywere so very kind to me. I worked there for a long time.

Q: Were you working there at the same time you were working at the Farmer's market?

A: No, after I quit there and then I started to work for the White family

Q: After you quit the Farmer's market?

A: Yes, that's right.

Q: How lond did you work there before you quit?

A: I worked there for a long time.

Q: Why did you quit?

A: The owner . . . there wasn't an owner there any longer. Some customers that came to shop at Farmer's market asked me to go work for them.

Q: So you did some housework for the customers?

A: Yes, that's right.

Q: How many households did you work for?

A: I worked for all the relatives of Dr. Cramer, his son's and daughter's houses. I worked for about 3 or 4 families.

Q: Do you remember anything else about that particular time in your life?

A: I was very worried about leaving my two elder sons home while I was out working. So, I asked Fuyumi if she would let my eldest son work at her grocery store after school. But she told me that it was very difficult to work for Mr. Fuyumi and that Ichiro, my son, may not last very long. I told her it was much better for him to work for a picky man than to be playing outside every day after school. I told her that I would buy all my groceries from their store if she did this one favor for me. I asked her to please hire my son and to pay him cheap wages, if she liked. My son, therefore, worked at the grocery store for \$3.00 a week. He saved his earnings and was able to buy a bicycle for himself. He was so happy and proud of himself. I bought all my groceries from that store. When I started to work at Farmer's Market, someone there was looking for a boy to help out during the summer. I asked that person to hire my son and told him that he was working at a small grocery store. He told me to bring him there to the market. My son started to work there for \$18 a week. I had my younger son work at the other small store where his brother worked. Since my elder son was now making \$18 a week, he told me he wanted to buy a sewing machine for me. The two boys saved their money and bought me the machine. They were so proud of themselves and

so very happy. Then when the War started we had to sell the machine. They were very sad, my children were. We sold the machine and went to camp. It was good that we went to camp - my sons made many friends there, such as Mr. Sakamoto's son. Then they all went to fight in the War.

Q: What were some of your ideals?

A: I wanted at least for my eldest son to go to college no matter how poor we were. But, then the WAR hit and when he got out of the service - we were living in Ohio near Ohio State University then - the service paid for his education and he went to Ohio state for his education. Oh, that was a life-saver. I really wanted at least for my eldest son to go to college. That was my goal. And God helped me realized that goal. Even if the Army helped pay for the school expenses, if we hadn't lived so close to the University, I don't think he could have managed as well as he did. We lived very close to Ohio State. My son still tells me that he had the best time of his life at Ohio State. Unlike California, the Japanese were not ostracized there, so he was able to mingle freely with the students, going to his friends house and inviting them to our's. He said he had never had such a good time as he had as a student at Ohio State University.

Q: Let's get back to the time of the War. What were some of your thoughts when you heard that Pearl Harbor was attacked?

A: I was working for Mr. Cramer then. All I heard was people calling us, "Jap, Jap" all the time. That's all I heard. The newspapers called us Jap and the radio called us Jap. I didn't feel like I was really alive. The day after Pearl Harbor was attacked, I had to go to work at Mrs. Cramer's house. I went to work early in the morning as usual and Mrs. Cramer came down from the

2nd floor and said, "don't worry, Oriental, you did not personally start the War. There is nothing to worry about. Just continue to work." As she was consoling me it started to rain and it felt like planes from Japan had come. I stopped breathing. She kept consoling me and telling me not to worry. She told me to get all my savings and investments and put them in the name of the store. She also told me to gather all my important papers and belongings and bring them to her house because it was going to be risky and dangerous. I was very impressed by her and saw a true Christian in her. If she was a Japanese woman, I don't think she would have said those things to me. She consoled me and told me to leave my daughter in her care if we had to leave for camp. She told me to bring my daughter Eiko, but because of the uncertainties of war, I felt it was best to keep the entire family as a unit. So all the family members went to camp together.

Q: Were you surprised to hear about the attack? That Japan would do such a thing?

A: Yes. I was very frightened. Both my husband and I came from military families and we had pictures of our relatives in military uniforms. My children were afraid and we burnt all the pictures. We may have to confront the authorities so we burnt all the pictures.

Q: Did you feel Japan started an enormous venture?

A: Yes. But, many of us, including my husband didn't believe Japan would lose. Friends told me that Yoshihashi died at a good time because had he lived to see Japan defeated, he would be a type of person to commit suicide. My husband died without knowing Japan lost the war which was very fortunate for him.

As I look back in my own life, life is, indeed, very interesting.

The various events in my life were blessings from God. My life is in His hands. God always helped me hurdle my obstacles. I'm very grateful to Him. I have no worries in my life now. I'm very thankful to God. I forsook my troubles and entrusted myself in His hands (then, quotes a verse in the Bible which I can't translate). The only worry I have now is about my grandchildren. I pray that my Sansei grandchildren do not wander off the path to do evil. I always pray to God for His guidance and to protect them from evil.

Q: Did you get along with the Whites fairly well?

A: Oh, yes with all of them. White people were always very kind to me. White people have always treated me with kindness even though I spoke to them in my broken English. They trusted me. I didn't speak English well and so the trust was not transmitted in words. Not by words, but by my character. When White people trust someone, they really trust you. Whites were very kind to me. Even while I was in camp, these people sent me many things.

Q: When did you find you had to go into camp?

A: In 1942, I believe.

Q: Your husband . . .

A: He was ill, bed stricken.

Q: Did you have to do all the moving by yourself?

A: Yes and with the help of my two sons. We took all our belongings to our next-door neighbor who was our landlord. We took our things and stored them on the 2nd floor of his house. I worked until the very end, until the day before we left for camp. Then suddenly, my husband said, "I may die in camp." He said that and sure to his words he passed away in camp.

Q: Was your landlord White?

A: Yes.

Q: Did he keep your belongings for you?

A: Yes, we stored them on the second floor of his house. He sent our things to us later. He sent our belongings to use, but by the time we were about to move from Ohio after living there for 5 years, my children had all grown up. The children were getting married one after another and so I felt it was too much of a burden to set up house all by myself. I decided to leave my belongings in Ohio and just live in a White family when I came out to California. My children said they just couldn't see me continue working in a White family so I lived with my daughter for a while. My daughter got married soon thereafter so my eldest son bought the old house where I'm living now. It's been 25 years already since I returned to California. My eldest son is a very good man so I have nothing to worry about.

Q: How did you feel when you found out you had to go to camp?

A: I felt it was best for all of us to go to camp. Every where I went, people were calling us Japa, Jap. The radios, newspapers, just everyone. I felt that if we were going to stay together, it would be best to be in camp.

Q: Where did you go first?

A: We went to Tsurabe, then we went to Hila camp.

Q: Did you stop anywhere else first?

A: No, we went directly to Tsufabe. We stayed in Tsurabe for a while and then we went to camp in Hila, Arizona. It was a good place.

Q: Didn't all of you gather at one central location before you got on the train to go to camp?

A: We got on the train in Pasadena and went to Tsurabe right away.

We arrived there in the evening. My two boys joined the Army and went to war. They joined the 422nd infantry.

Q: How long were you at Tularli?

A: Not very long. The hardest thing in camp was to answer the yes and no problem. That was very difficult. We were asked that question in the Hila Camp. My husband had said we would all go to Tule Lake camp and then return to Japan. He had made up his mind to do that. The Nihei families went to Tule Lake and returned to Japan. My husband told me angrily that because I was the way I was that the children didn't listen to him. He was angry with me. Our children were old enough and I told him that he could not control the children. Our youngest, Fumiko, told her father, "Papa, we can't even read or write Japan. How will we do in Japan? I'm not going to Japan." That's what she told him. My husband couldn't argue with that. He told me that because of what I was like, the children didn't listen to him. Our sons turned green and started to cry. I felt sorry for them. I told them that just because Papa was saying those things, we weren't going to blindly follow him. We would consult our relatives and friends and then we would take an action that was best for the whole family. I told them, "You must do what is best for you. Be sure to decide now so you will not regret later. Think carefully and ask your friends for advice. Then and only then make your decision. This problem can not be solved solely by your father and there is no reason to just follow him blindly." My boys therefore, went to talk with Jimmy Sakamoto and some other friends. They finally decided to join the Army and fight in the War. Papa was so angry. He was angry, but I told him that our children were born and raised in America. They were fully grown and that they can't always do

just what you want them to do. I argued with him on this. I'm very glad I did. If we had listened to Papa and had gone to Tule Lake and returned to Japan, I just can't imagine what would have happened to us. I was able to live after my husband died because my boys went into the Army and sent money to us. That issue, whether to stay in America or to return to Japan, was the most difficult issue for us. The issue didn't affect just our family but everyone had difficulty making the decision.

Q: Were some families torn apart because of this issue?

A: Yes, that's right. The Issei Father's idea of having total control over their children is an outmolded idea. When children are grown they just can't obey their parent blindly. The "yes-no" issue was indeed very difficult to resolve.

Q: Have you ever heard of fathers and children being separated because of this issue?

A: I'm sure that has happened. My husband passed away in Hila camp, not even 9 months after our sons went into the Army in 1944. That was a burdensome decision for our sons. So many Japanese returned to Japan and they had so many problems. The Japanese in Japan were unkind to them and Japan was a desperate nation at that time in history. What would have happened to us? I'm so glad we didn't return to Japan. The eldest son was able to go to college because he joined the Army.

Q: How was the life in camp?

A: It was very, very good. We all enjoyed ourselves. All of us in camp were Japanese so we all enjoyed each others company.

Q: Did you work in camp?

A: No, I didn't. I was always nursing my husband. I nursed him for 9 months, took care of the funeral and then prepared to leave

camp for Ohio. I was very busy.

Q: How long were you in camp?

A: We entered in 1942, my husband died in 1944 and left in 1945.

Q: Did you leave before the end of the War?

A: Yes. We left for Ohio before the end of the War. We lived in Ohio when the war ended.

Q: did you study anything in camp?

A: I learned flower arrangement and made (belts?). I enjoyed my stay in the camp. I am glad I went to camp. My husband was ill for 9 months in the desert. The members of the camp helped us and the camp officials took care of the funeral. Before we went into camp, my daughter and I took out an insurance policy for \$1,000 during a period he was well. We took out this policy for funeral expenses. When the War started and we had to go into camp, I asked the insurance company to wait until the end of the War to pay for the premiums although we had only paid \$400 of it. They wrote to us and agreed. When my husband died in camp, the insurance company paid us \$1,000. That money came in very handy. I was able to pay for some furnitures like a bed and things of that nature when my children got married with the money from the insurance policy. It came like magic. So, I have been taken care of materially during my married life. I given too much emotionally or spiritually, but God provided that for me.

Q: Do you remember any special incidents or any special recollections of your life in camp?

A: Well, as I said before, the "Yes-No" issue and my husband's death were some of the outstanding issues for me. Things of that nature.

Q: You learned flower arrangement you said.

A: Yes, that's right. That was very fun.

Q: What was Hila like?

A: It was a desert with sage brushes.

Q: Was it a hot place?

A: Oh, a vaery hot place. All of us in the camp was Japanese so we all got along very well. When we arrived there the place was horrible; but we were all in the same boat. We made many friends and I enjoyed being with them all, I felt very safe there. It was certainly better than being there alone in the desert.

Q: Were there any pro-Japanese patriots who caused problems for others in the camp?

A: Those people were sent to Tule Lake. They caused problems in Tule Lake. The extremists were sent to Tule Lake.

Q: Were there any problems in camp?

A: No, we didn't have any. Of course there were some minor incidents, but nothing serious. My sons returned without any injuries. I was very grateful.

One of the addest thing I saw in camp was the funeral of Nisei boys who had gone to War in opposition to their parents' wishes. They weren't my own children, but to be at a funeral where the son went against the parents' wishes and died in action, oh, that was so sad. The bugle blew - so sad and loney. I went to the funeral of Henry Kondo - that was the saddest funeral I have ever attended. It was so emotionally distrubing. Yes, Henry Kondo died in action in France without a word to his parents. He died in the War. It was such a sad funeral. A very difficult funeral - we all cried so hard. My boys never talked abou the WAr after they came home from the War. I rented a large, nice home when we moved to Ohio after the war and when the boys saw our home, they were very

happy. Their friends all stopped at our home after the end of the War and ate Japanese food, rested and then returned to California. My sons were very happy to live in a nice house.

Wars . . . I never want to see another war.

Q: What happened to your uncle and the rest of your family in Japan?

A: Some how my relatives in Japan do not die in wars. My brother-in-law's children were in the Army, one became a general and the other a colone. His daughter's husband was a colone, too.

Q: Are they stil in the military service?

A: Oh, no they are out of the service now. The younger son, the general, worked in the Emperor's chamberlain's office at the closing days of the War. It appeared in the weekly magazine. He is now close to his 70's.

Q: Was he ever tried as a war criminal at the end of the War?

A: No, that never happened.

Q: What happened to this man's . . .

A: My Aunt Matsui, the lady who raised me?

Q: Yes, what happened to your uncle Matsui?

A: He passed away of old age after I arrived in America. My cousin became their adopted son and he was in the Army, too as an officer un the Inspector General's office. The military became defunct and he was unable to hold on to their large house. He sold it to dentist and now lives in Kyoto.

Q: When your sons went to war, were you ever afraid they might have to fight against Japan?

A: Well, actually this is what happened. My husband died in April, my younger son enlisted in May and the oldest son went into the Army in June. They came home in November for a short visit. At

that time the boys told me that if they had to fight against Japan that they would wait another year to join the military. They would have to go to a Japanese language school if they went to fight in Japan. They said, "elder sister is in Tokyo and we just don't want to fight against Japan. So, we've decided to fight in Italy and France. It's dangerous there now, but it's better than fighting in Japan." They didn't have to say those things - that eldest sister was in Japan and that they didn't want to fight against Japan. They were going to Europe even though the fighting had escalated there.

Q: Who was the "eldest sister"?

A: My eldest daughter.

Q: Did she go to Japan?

A: Yes, she did. She went as a bride and lived in Tokyo at that time.

Q: What happened to her?

A: She died.

Q: In the war?

A: No, she returned to America after the war and died from an illness. If she was alive now, she'd be 60 years old. I lost two daughters so I only have 3 children living now.

Q: Were there a lot of snakes and insects around the camp since it was located in the middle of the desert?

A: No, not as much as it was rumored. Some said that there were scorpions all over the place, but it was not as bad as all that.

Q: The rooms. . .

A: We lived in barracks.

Q: How were they?

A: We all lived in the same way so we didn't complain. We were all the same.

Q: Weren't there plays and such entertainment in the camp?

A: Yes, there were.

Q: Were they enjoyable?

A: Yes, very fun. We all carried our blankets and just had fun. Life was easy in the camp. We had everything we wanted, soy sauce, rice and other items. I was so afraid that I wouldn't be able to have Japanese food once I was in camp. I smuggled rice and soy sauce into camp, but that wasn't necessary. We didn't go without for a single day. If this was in Japan, this kind of treatment would never have occurred. America treats people well. They gave us clothes and even \$8.00 for spending money. WE had plenty. We stayed in camp from 1942 to 1945, but I was frightened as we left camp to go to Ohio. We had lived with all these Japanese people for so long in such safe conditions that to go out into the White society was quite frightening. When I went out to find a job, I felt. . . . I can't put it into words . . . like a beggar. But I gave myself a pep talk and told myself that we are all children of God so there was no need to enryo (constrained or hesitant). I went to work for a White family; walked to work in the snow.

The saddest thing that happened there was when I decided to go to the movies since I had some anxious thoughts on my mind. I walked alone in the snow to see a movie and there were many people at the theater. I was the only Japanese there. I sat in the back and then I saw the news of the Japanese general signing the surrender papers to McArthur. I just cried and cried. It was so painful to watch. I had no intention of looking at such news, but unfortunately, I went on the day they were showing the Japanese general

signing the surrender papers. I felt so sad. I went home crying. That was a very painful experience.

Q: Did you have hardships in Ohio?

A: Oh, yes. Many difficult times. Ohio is the home of the devil.

Q: What do you mean by that?

A: It is true that some Whites were nice to the Japanese after the War, but I saw that they were two-faced in their kindness. There are some good White people and there are also some bad White people as well. The YWCA decided to have a Japan Day and the profits were going to go for the YWCA expenses. They had us make cherry tree props, sell tickets, make sushi and salad and perform Japanese dances. They told us to make sushi for 100 people or make salad for 100 people. They told us to do these things all the time. Imagine, we had just gotten out of camps. We entered the camps with just two suitcases and came out with the same. We were like beggars; we had nothing. And they expected us to sell tickets, make food, perform Japanese dances. We were just like merchandise on display. I was very very angry. I refused to participate. I just wouldn't do it. But, there were some complications. I was branded as an enemy and a woman come yelling at me at my house.

Q: Who?

A: A White lady, a wife of a professor. They were not good people. I was very troubled by this. I prayed to God every day-. The Bible taught me how to live through these stress.

Q: What kind of work did this White woman do?

A: She had gone to China as a missionary. They were Mr. and Mrs. Powell. She had a Ph.D. degree. My daughter was staying with

them for a while. This did not work out. I had many painful experiences in Ohio such as this incident. I had my most painful experiences in Ohio.

Q: Were some of the White people using the Japanese?

A: We were handed over to the Communists (Reds). We were put into camps, Japan was going through the pains of a defeated nation and on top of that we sent our precious sons to war and the remaining children were treated and sold as cheap dolls. This was too much to take. I got angry. The Bible says this. No one taught me how to think, the Bible teaches me.

Q: Did you tell anyone how you felt?

A: No, I didn't say so personally, but someone else told this White lady and her husband that I was opposed to what was going on. That's why this lady came to my house and angrily denounced me.

Q: What did you say to her?

A: Well, what could I say to her? I left it alone and let time handle it. I quoted a verse in the Bible about (Palestinians . . . ?) I reminded myself of the words of the Bible and realized that they are the leaders of the world. There was nothing I could do to change their minds so I bought some fruits and went to apologize to the lady. The Bible taught me everything I know. Just as Mathew 23 states " ", that's just how the world is.

Q: What happened to them?

A: Nothing happened to them, but I guess they learned a little fear. With this commitment, I decided to be baptized a Christian - because there were many enemies and I was afraid. I followed the wise words of the Bible and I became a Christian. I ran to a

White church and had a real baptisimal. Now that I was under God's protection, I knew no one would harm me and felt relieved.

Q: Was the money raised by your ticket selling work and cooking to to China directly?

A: Oh, no, no. The money went directly to the YWCA funds. But, you know, there was some underhanded business, really. Those days were difficult. It's at this time that the person who baptized me said, "you can't trust just anyone these days. Read this book and trust it." She gave me the New Testament. Everything is written in the Bible. Remember the verse which says, "
" - it's written in Jacobs and Mathews. When I read those words I was shocked and knew that God already knows everything. That's why I decided to be baptized. No one suggested that I become a Christian. I just read the truths in the Bible and that's why I decided to become a Christian.

Q: Do you remember anything else about what happened in Ohio?

A: I really had some difficult times in Ohio and suffered a lot - regarding the White people. On the other hand, I met people like Mr. Blackman and Mrs. Dacon, who were professors at Ohio State. They were honest and sincere people who were very kind to us. I spoke to them about everything in my broken English.

Q: What specific difficulties did you have?

A: Well . . . anyway, that place is the next of the devil. Mr. Yoshimura's son was put in jail for 10 days. This incident happened just as the words from Sansho of the Bible states. Really. I'm surprised that the Bible's prophesy come true all the time.

Q: What happened to Yoshimura's son?

A: He was put in jail for 10 days.

Q: What was the reason for this?

A: One day Raymond came home with a blushed face. "What happened", I asked him and he said he went out to drink beer with a Chinese friend. I told him that he shouldn't wander around at night when it's so dangerous at nights. Shortly thereafter, he decided to go home for summer vacation. We never received a word of his safe arrival home. I was worried that perhaps what the Bible says may come true, that after 10 consecutive days of absence, one may go to jail. In June I received a letter from Mrs. Yoshimura telling me Raymond finally arrived home safely. She wrote, "isn't this a frightening society we live in?" and she told me the truth of what happened to him. Everything that's in the Bible comes true.

Q: Why was Raymond put in jail?

A: Probably simply because he got drunk or something. Of course, Raymond or his family would never tell us. But, the truth is that he did go to jail. Strange and unusual things like this happened all the time. I knew that I had no other alternative but to be baptized. The church asked me if I wanted to be baptized in warm, cold or hot water as specified in the (mokushiroku). Then I experienced many strange things like hearing that hymn I hadn't heard for 35 years. After I was baptized all these women rushed towards me and hugged and kissed me crying their hearts out at the same time.

Q: Which church was this?

A: Indiana Christ Church. Seishōbu Christ.

Q: Do you remember anything else about your life in Ohio?

A: My daughter worked at the American Service Committee. One day my daughter came to me and said, "Mama, what's wrong with me? I

just can't type recently. All I do is make mistakes. I'm fed up with this. I'm thinking of quitting and going to Chicago". I told her she was an adult now and if she wanted to go to Chicago, she should go. So, she became the wife of Sakamoto and went to live in Chicago. Then some white people came to my house and asked me where Eiko was. I told them she was in Chicago. God had released her - her hand wouldn't move while she was typing and that was strange. I have no doubt that God is alive.

Q: What did those White people want to do with her?

A: They were probably Communists (Reds). Mrs. Blackman asked me if I knew American history and I said yes I knew the (Arakajima _ the beginning?). He cried to me and said, "America is in big trouble". I realized how complicated American internal affairs really is.

Q: Who was Mrs. Blackman.

A: She was an agriculture professor. She took me to the international club for 5 years. It is then that I learned what an international club is - there are French, Italians, English and many different people. Some of the people would say that certain portions of the Bible were incorrect and that they wanted to revise it. Mr. Blackman would tell them that there was nothing wrong with the Bible. Nothing needed to be omitted or added. There was no need to do such things. There really isn't anything to these international clubs.

Q: Were the people who came to look for your daughter Whites?

A: Yes, they were all Whites. Yes, Whites. But being Christians, we must all forgive them sevenfold for their (evil) deeds. If we don't, God will not forgive our sins either. That's only fair. No matter how bad the act is God tells us we must forgive the sinner 70 times or our sins will not be forgiven either. To

be a Christian is difficult and complicated. The Bible states that the only path to God is through the Bible. There is no other road. It's just as the Bible says.

Q: What happened after Ohio?

A: I was baptized on August 13, 1950 and I returned to California the following year in March, 1951.

Q: Where did you return to?

A: I stayed with the Yoshimura's for a while and then stayed in Loomis for 8 months. I stayed with my daughter there. Then my eldest son told me that he bought an old house and invited me to live there. I then started to study the Bible in Japanese - its been 25 years now.

Q: Have you been retired since coming back to California?

A: Yes. I was baptized in 1950 and returned to California in March, 1951.

So, it's been 27 years now.

A: Yes.

Q: You've had many difficult periods in your life, but in retrospect, what was the most difficult time in your life?

A: Well . . . it was when the police took me to the station. Now, that was very hard on me. The policeman told me I couldn't do any selling - he came so suddenly and he dragged me off to the station. I had no idea what I had done. And I found out the enormous interest on the unpaid sales tax. I was told to pay them the full amount. I was shocked. I was so shocked I couldn't even cry. I have had many difficult times, but I was mortified when this happened to me and very angry about the incident. I had taken money out of my children's savings just to start that business

and I ended up taken in by the policeman. I was miserable, but God helps us in many different ways. He helped me in that incident as well as many other times. I did home-wash laundry with five children and a sick husband and we had enough to live by - a family of 7 survived on my earnings. We can't live without God's help/

Q: Do you feel it was good to have come to America?

A: Yes, I like America. I hate living in a double-faced society. It's against my character. America doesn't have that - America is an honest society. A person can live honestly and equally in America. You can be a housecleaner, grocer, laundry woman or anything and no one will make fun of you or look down on you. Even Mrs. Cramer patted me on the back and said, "Oriental, you did a good job" and would encourage me. No one make you feel stupid here in America. When I took my children to do the housework for half a day, she would let my children play in her beautiful back lawn. She would then let me work inside and pay me for the day's work. I realized what a fabulous place America is. When the War started, I went to her house and she said, "you didn't start the War so don't worry. Calm yourself and do your work. Bring your valuables and leave it in my house." A millionaires wife whom I worked for offered to do those things for me. She comforted me with her kind words, too. Such things would never happen in Japan. When I think about such things, I realize how democratic America is. I myself looked down on maids and bettos in Japan. It was only after I had to work in different jobs in America that I fully understood the pains and hardships of the maids and bettos. I earned only \$15 a week and 5 children and I lived in one room. I

experienced the true pains of hardship. I didn't know anything about it when I was in Japan. I am thankful that I came to America and moreover, I've become a Christian and I have joined the family of God. I've been reading the Bible and praying as much as possible. I consider myself the most fortunate person in the world. Had I stayed in Japan, I would never feel like this. I felt that if Japan continued the way she was going then she would collapse. Only by falling to the bottom and living a poor life have I learned about life. Perhaps the military was strong in those days in Japan, but the people could not have a good and prosperous life with only a strong military. I learned these things by coming to America. It's God's way. That's why I'd like for at least one of the Yoshihashi's children to be saved by God. I feel it's my obligation to my Aunt Yoshihashi. I've been having the children read many things about the Bible.

Q: When your husband was dying . . . he wasn't a Christian was he?

A: No, he wasn't. That clock was used for meditating while he read the Zen scriptures. He believed there was no other truth but Zen. He believed in Zen as the only religion. He meditated every day. But, it was unusual to see a 30 years old housewife to follow Zen. I can understand an elderly woman or a man to follow Zen but a 30 years old woman who had never studied in her life followed Zen. And I raised my children at the same time, at that. It was very strange. But, I do not regret following Zen Buddhism. I'm thankful for that, too. It took me 18 years to realize that I was a very conceited person. I was so proud I came from a high class military family. My aunt and uncle would tell me we were high class and I believed them fully. If we needed a car, we would have a chauffeured car. I didn't know my values until

- I studied Zen. Zen texts says to put your hand on your heart and meditate on your own self-conceit. and ask yourself, do you have a value as a human being. When I did this, I felt like I was being poked with needles and I confessed my faults. It took me 18 years to reach this point in my life. I realized then that my sufferings and hardships were caused by my own self-conceited cockiness. I was 38 years old then. This was also God's plan. There is nothing worse than one's own conceit. The reason Japan lost was because of the Japanese military's conceit. The Japanese military got so cocky when they won the Sino-Japanese war. The result was the defeat of Japan during the Second World War. Self-conceit is frightening. I am very grateful I came to America. I returned to Japan in 1961 after 45 years absence. I was shocked at the huge population. My husband had wanted to become a military officer, but he couldn't join because he had short legs, so he came to America. I saw then that he must have been a little farsighted because soon Japan will be overpopulated and the Japanese will not be able to live there. In a few years, people will not be able to live there any longer. So, Papa was foresighted to come to America. I really believe that.
- Q: As a grandmother who has experienced many facts of life, what words would you like to leave with your grandchildren?
- A: Only this: believe in Jesus Christ and live by the Bible. That's all I'd like to tell them. Everything else pales next to this. Become a Christian, believe in your Savior, follow the precepts of the Church and live by the Bible. That's all I want for them to learn. I don't have any other wishes. This is why I am leaving behind my (akashi) in English to my survivors. This is my wish.

They can do whatever they want with me after I die - where I should be buried and things like that. I told my children that I won't care what they do with my body after I die so they can do whatever they want. If they want my body to be buried next to their father, that's alright. I don't really care. I told them that a religion is very important and only blessed with material good is no sufficient. I have asked my descendents to become Christians and follow the path to God. That's all I ask. God has promised that if one person is saved in a family, all the members will be saved. I won't be disappointed. I pray.

Q: Going back to the beginning, but back in those days when you arrived in America at the age of 19 in 1915, there must not have been too many women.

A: Yo, there were many women already here. In fact, the time I came was the peak of immigration for the Japanese.

Q: Were there many bachelors?

A: Oh, yes, many.

Q: What did you think of their life style?

A: Just coming from Tokyo, I had much pity for them. A friend of my husband's went with a Mexican ambassador to Japan as a translator and he went to my husband's elder brother's home. A nephew and his father asked this man what my husband was doing in America. He told him that my husband was in the (teoku) business, household business. His Elder brother shook his head and said that there were some strange professions in America. He had given my husband a good education in Tokyo, but my husband was involved such an unusual business in America. Had my husband remained in Japan, his elder brother said, he could have made something of himself - have become a prominent man.

Q: You said that the Japanese bachelors in America lived a pitiful life. What do you mean by that?

A: All they did was sing dumb songs and . . . drank alcohol . . . I can't put it into words.

Q: Did they gamble?

A: Yes. My husband never did those things. He was a very serious man.

Q: It's said that some men who were married and with children would gamble away their whole month's salary . . .

A: Yes, that's true. Many things like that happened. Some said, "if Mr. Yoshihashi can't succeed, then who can?" My husband was a diligent worker. He wasn't a lucky man and was a very stubborn person who hated to work under any man. He never made any money in his life consequently. He should have been a lawyer. Really. He had an excellent logic and loved to argue. I always told him he should have been a lawyer. He would have been successful then. But, I'm thankful. The only thing I want now is that my children become good Christians. They are all very happy and prosperous, but they are so materialistic. My grandchildren, particularly. They are so materialistic it's frightening. How long can even America continue like this - to provide so much materially? What will happen when the collapse comes? It's true that America is prosperous now, but it's said that conflicts come from peace. When I read the end of the Bible when it talks about the ruination of the world, it reminded me so much of New York.

Q: As an Issei directly from Japan, would you like for the Sansei to know about Japan and its people?

A: Oh, yes, I do. My youngest son's children all go to Japanese

school, but the rest of my grandchildren do no. Sacramento doesn't offer Japanese.

Q: Would you like them to participate in artistic and the beautiful traditions of Japan?

A: Yes, they are, after all, Japanese. They must go to Japan at least once. They have to see for themselves.

Q: You returned in 1951 . . .

A: No, in 1961

Q: I see, since 1961. Have you been retired for 17 years now?

A: Yes, I had a stroke when I was 76 years old. I died for a while. Somehow, God allowed me to be revived.

Q: Where was this?

A: Here in San Gabriel. I passed out all of a sudden. Fortunately, a nurse was nearby and she took off my glasses and denture. She asw that I was about to faint and caught my head so I didn't hit my hid. My heart stopped beating and everyone around me shouted, "she's dead. She's dead." This nurse put her mouth on mine and gave me outh to mouth resuscitation. In this way, I became alive again. Later, I read Romans 8 and it states that God will always help us. This nurse who has now returned to Japan, told me it was God who saved my life and not her. I worked until I was 76 years old. I haven't worked since then. I receive social security.

Q: Were you already 76 years old when you returned?

A: No, I came back here in 1951. I went to work at Yoshimura's store, at my eldest son's flower shop - for half a day, until I was 76 years old. I haven't worked since I had that seizure. I read the Bible and pray every morning, take a walk for an hour - this is my work now.

Q: Where is the flower shop?

A: It's on San Gabriel Blv. My eldest son's shop. It's a large flower shop employeing 100 people My eldest son takes care of everything for me so I haven't a worry in the world.

Q: Thank-you very much for this interview.

A: Oh, not at all. Thank-you. I know you are a busy man.

Q: You have had a very interesting life.

A: Yes, truly. But, I know God protects this weak woman. He has' allowed me to live for 83 years now, I'm so grateful to Him.

Let's pray:

"Our Father in Heaven, allow us to join your body (_____). The reverend has come all the way from Sacramento to ask me about the life I have led and how you, Lord, have provided for me. I give thanks to You for this opportunity. Please bless the Reverend and his party. May Jesus's words go roth to the world. Please allow us to believe in our Savior and follow the Bible (_____). Thank you very much for today. It was a memor~~or~~able day. Thank-you, Lord, for protecting throughout my life and that I am now allowed to pray to You. Please bless the Reverend's family. We say these things in the name of Jesus Christ (_____). Amen.

Q: We are planning to translate this interview into English. May we have your permission to share this with others?

A: Most certainly.

Q: We as a committee would like your permission to use this interview as part of our book. To do this, the committee needs publication rights from you. May we have your permission?

A: Yes, go right a head.

Q: Will you like to hold on to the right or may the committee have

the authority?

A: The only place I'm going is to Heaven so go right a head.

Q: So, may we quote freely from this interview?

A: Yes, go right a head. Thank you very much for recording our Issei experiences. When we die, our memories would have died with us. Now, that would be too wasteful and very sad. Thank you very much for your concern and dedication.